

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ScholarWorks @ UTRGV

Brownsville History Harvest 2017

Special Collections and Archives

2013

Transcript of U.S. Corp. of Engineers member, Patricio Gonzalez, talking about World War II and a wing piece belonging to a Lockheed YP-38 American aircraft fighter

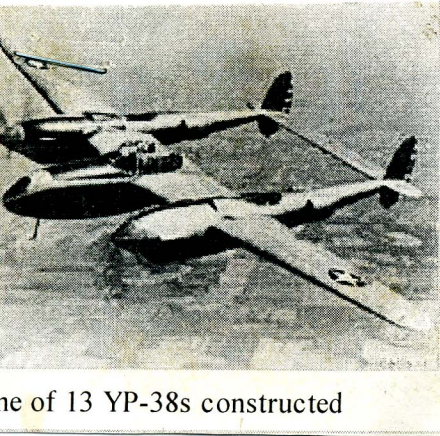
Patricio Gonzalez

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/bhh2017>

Recommended Citation

UTRGV History Harvest (BD-0010). UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and Archives at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Brownsville History Harvest 2017 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.



Dec: 1943

In California thousands of troops were ready to board ship to go overseas, when three aircraft came buzzing by, making rolls up in the sky. Putting on a spectacular air show

all of this in support for the soldiers going to war.

It was my first sight of a P38 aircraft.

What impressed me was the shape of the aeroplane

Pat Gonzalez

2013

World War II, P38 American
aircraft fighter --- model

It all started when I was in
New Guinea, during WWII 1944

The wing was cut from an
aircraft wreckage, in the area.

The bullet in the center of
the wing was a dud 50 caliber
machine gun bullet, also from the
area.



My project stopped, when my
battalion got orders to move out
to invade the Philippines.

well, the war came to an end

I came home in 1946, with
all my war souvenirs and
the wing with the bullet in
the center.

Later in 1952, I got married
to Nora Ramirez, and we had
three sons, [illegible] + [illegible].

my sons, got to play with the wing with the bullet in the center.

They got married, there families played with it too.

years went by fast.

now, I'm 89 years old, retired, and living at the same address.

Enjoying life with my lovely wife Nora

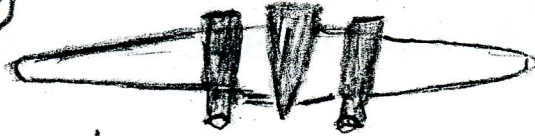


Nora, and I were going through memory lane one day, opening old boxes with lots of old things, when I stumbled with -yes! The wing with the bullet in the center.

Nora!, I said, I know what I'm going to do! I'm going to finish my P38 airplane model, that I started 69 year ago, while, I was in New Guinea during the war.

So, I started looking for supplies

Emmanuel Ramirez, Noe's brother was a WWII Veteran. when he died, they gave him a 21 gun salute. They gave me the empty shells.



when the idea came to me to build the air plane model;

I started to look for the empty shells.

Two of the shells are the twin engines one on each side of the wing.

I found some drum sticks from my son Andres High school days.

I cut two drum sticks at the right length.



This was for my two fuselages going back to the tail assembly.

There are a lot of tongue depressors that Dr. Omar, left here at home.



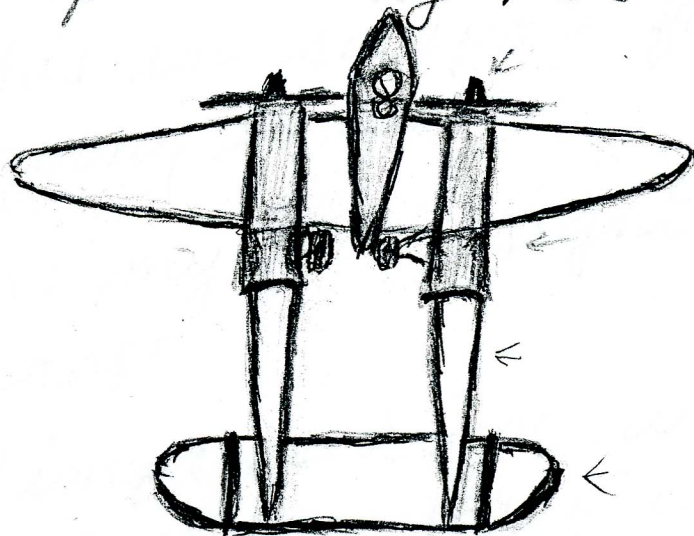
This material help me to construct the tail assembly:

I took some Q sticks from _____
Dr. Andre's dental office.

This was for the landing wheel
braces to the under carriage

I took a plastic container and
cut two circles to simulate the two
propellers. The two tips in front
of the props, came from fountain pen
ends.

This completed my P38 model



In 1944 the U.S. Army Forces invaded the Philippines
on the island of Leyte. My Battalion mission
was to build a landing field for our fighte
planes, to my surprise P-38 fighters.

U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS
Pat 2013